—Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minimum working days etc. notified by UGC.

विश्व बैंक की सहायता से सीसायुक्त पेट्रोल को सीसा-रहित पेट्रोल में बदलना

*155. **श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली**: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेगे कि:

(क) क्या सीसाकृत पेट्रोल को सीसा-रहित पेट्रोल में परिर्तित करने के लिए विश्व बैंक ने भारत को सहायता देने का प्रस्ताव किया है,

(ख) यदि हा, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) इस प्रस्ताव पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र) : (क) वर्तमान में विश्व बैंक ने ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नही किया है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नही उठता।

News-Item Captioned "US Wheat rowers team coming"

*156. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the report published in the Times of India of 24th April, 1997, by Shri Kingshuk Nag saying "US wheat growers team coming".

(b) whether the team had visited the country;

(c) it so, who were the members of the team and what was the objective of their visit; and

(d) what are the details of discussions, if any, held with the team and conclusions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news-item.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The team of US wheat experts consisted of representatives of Federal Grain Inspection Service, Grain and Feed Division Of US Government, US Wheat Associates, representatives of two wheat exporting organisations viz., M/s. United Grain and M/s. Cargill. The objective of the Team was to review Indian production/import possibilities of foodgrains from US and to discuss Indian quality, health and phytosanitary requirements with reference to US Regulations on the subject. The Team held discussions in this regard with the officials of STC, FCI and representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Directorate of Plant Protection and Quarantine in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance. However, no specific trade/ business negotiations were held.

LPG distributorship in Rural areas

*157 SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a massive demand for LPG cooking gas in the rural areas of the country;

(b) whether any directions have been given by Government to the Oil Marketing companies to prepare plans to provide LPG distributorship to all villages in the country;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what criterion is likely to be fixed for providing LPG distributorships in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) There is a growing demand for LPG in the rural areas of the country.

(b) to (d) With a view to provide LPG connections in the rural areas by opening LPG distributorships in these areas, the Government has directed the Oil Companies to prepare LPG Marketing Plan